

HA-31

La Grange House

Architectural Survey File

This is the architectural survey file for this MIHP record. The survey file is organized reverse-chronological (that is, with the latest material on top). It contains all MIHP inventory forms, National Register nomination forms, determinations of eligibility (DOE) forms, and accompanying documentation such as photographs and maps.

Users should be aware that additional undigitized material about this property may be found in on-site architectural reports, copies of HABS/HAER or other documentation, drawings, and the “vertical files” at the MHT Library in Crownsville. The vertical files may include newspaper clippings, field notes, draft versions of forms and architectural reports, photographs, maps, and drawings. Researchers who need a thorough understanding of this property should plan to visit the MHT Library as part of their research project; look at the MHT web site (mht.maryland.gov) for details about how to make an appointment.

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Last Updated: 02-04-2016

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FORM

NR Eligible: yes ☒
no ☐

Property Name: La Grange House and Outbuildings Inventory Number: HA-31
 Address: 3901 Rocks Road (MD 24) Historic district: ☐ yes ☒ no
 City: Street Zip Code: 21154 County: Harford
 USGS Quadrangle(s): Fawn Grove
 Property Owner: Michael and Deborah Coomes Tax Account ID Number: 1305043921
 Tax Map Parcel Number(s): 237 Lot 4 Tax Map Number: 0025
 Project: MD 24 at Rocks State Park Agency: MD State Highway Administration
 Agency Prepared By: MD State Highway Administration
 Preparer's Name: SHA Consultant Architectural Historian Rebecca Crew Date Prepared: 06/24/2013
 Documentation is presented in: MIHP Form HA-31, On-file at Maryland Historical Trust
 Preparer's Eligibility Recommendation: ☒ Eligibility recommended ☐ Eligibility not recommended
 Criteria: ☒ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D Considerations: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G
Complete if the property is a contributing or non-contributing resource to a NR district/property:
 Name of the District/Property: _____
 Inventory Number: _____ Eligible: ☐ yes ☐ no Listed: ☐ yes ☐ no
 Site visit by MHT Staff ☐ yes ☒ no Name: _____ Date: _____

Description of Property and Justification: *(Please attach map and photo)*

The La Grange House is a large, two-and-one-half-story stone masonry dwelling that was once the home of the La Grange Iron Works' ironmasters. Clad in stucco, it is comprised of a center-hall, double-pile main block, a telescoping three-bay north wing, and a rear ell. Built in phases, and altered over time, it exhibits multiple architectural styles including German and English vernacular, Georgian symmetry, and Victorian interior. The La Grange House sits on a small rise on the east side of Rocks Road (MD 24) north of Deer Creek and Rocks State Park in Harford County, Maryland. The house is immediately northeast of a stone barn and two-story frame store, which are set closer to the road and described in a separate Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties number. The house is accompanied by three stone outbuildings south and east of the house (a combination springhouse and summer kitchen, a smokehouse, and a privy) as well as to the northwest of the house, a frame Italianate garage that may have originally been a school room or payhouse, and a frame pump house and corncrib.

The main block, facing west towards Rocks Road, is five bays wide, four bays deep, and two-and-a-half stories tall. A wood-floored, shed-roofed porch shelters the entire first floor. Eight square wood columns support the porch roof. The central entrance consists of a wood paneled door, protected by a wood and screen door, and accented by side lights and a decorative transom. The transom features muntins forming a keystone shape and semi-circles separated by vertical members. The space between the semi-circles are curved diamond shapes. The two windows north of the entrance have a six-over-one design and functional paneled

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 MHT Comments:

Jim Jarman ✓
 Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

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 Reviewer, National Register Program

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shutters. They remarkably also feature iron window sills, relating to the history of the house as an ironmaster's house. The two windows south of the entrance are the height of triple-sash units, but their composition is a six-light sash over a single, very large light. These windows are flanked by full-length functional wood shutters that are divided so that the bottom third may open or close separately. Throughout the house are wood window sashes unless otherwise noted.

The main block's five second story windows on the façade are evenly-spaced, six-over-one, double-sash windows. They have no shutters. The site visit occurred during a renovation phase when the stucco was removed from the façade. A masonry seam was visible between the two north bays and the three south bays.

The façade's two attic dormers are aligned not with lower level windows but just to either side of the center bay. The dormer windows are six-light units and the dormer's hipped roofs have wide overhangs. Rolled asphalt shingles cover the dormers and the main block's roof. Both gable ends of the main block feature replacement corbelled brick chimneys.

Additions obscure the main block's north and east elevations, leaving only the previously described west elevation and the south elevation exposed. The main block's south elevation, which adjoins the east wing, has symmetrical window openings. The first and second floors each have four, six-over-one windows currently devoid of shutters. The windows are regularly sized, but the gap between the middle windows is wider, allowing for the central chimney. The attic level has two, six-light, fixed sash windows. The west of these does not align with the windows below it. The south gable end reveals a box cornice with partial returns.

The north wing is two stories tall and has the appearance of an independent three-bay dwelling with off-center openings. One bay deep, its façade is set back from the front wall of the main block and the A secondary entrance occupies the wing's central bay. The wood door is paneled with four vertical lights along the top. The door, set under a separate four-light transom, is recessed, and the walls of the recess are paneled. Replacement stone steps access this entrance. The two windows flanking the entrance are six-over-six, double-hung sash units with functional, wood-paneled shutters. The first floor windows are substantially longer than and slightly wider than the two second floor windows. The second story windows are two-over-two sash units with functional louvered shutters. The north wing's south bay openings are set very close to the north wall of the main block, and its north bay openings are generously distanced from the north wall. An interior chimney pierces the roof immediately north of the north bay openings, leaving several feet until the north wall, relating to the interior division of rooms. The north wing's north wall has a single, single-light window on the north wall. It is small in size, with louvered shutters, and placed relatively high above the floor level. A two-light-over-four-light sash window pierces the north wing's gable end; its placement is too high to allow shutters to fit. The north wing's roof has a wide overhang and rake, a box cornice, and partial returns. A molded entablature decorates the east partial return while the west partial return is devoid of decoration. Asphalt architectural shingles cover the north wing's roof, and its brick chimney is replacement and devoid of corbelling. The north wing's east elevation has a French door at the very north section, north of the chimney line and two, one-over-one, vinyl-sash replacement windows. The second floor is devoid of window openings.

The north wing obscures most of the north wall of the main block, but two windows are exposed on the attic level. The west window has a two-over-four configuration. The east window (with a four-over-two sash configuration) is partially covered by the north wing's roof, suggesting that this section of the main block predates the north wing. However, it may be that the north wing received a new roof that was taller than the original. The main block's east wall is mostly obscured by the rear addition, but its north bay is exposed and contains a six-over-six window on each floor.

The rear wing is also two-and-a-half stories tall. The rear wing's north elevation is three bays wide. A recessed door occupied the central bay. The recess's walls are paneled and the wood surround is molded. The half-glazed wood door has two vertical panels, and the wide transom has three large lights. The flanking first floor windows are six-over-one, and the three second floor windows are six-over-six.

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The rear wing has a shed-roofed, clapboard-sided, frame addition along the east wall. The south wall of the frame addition has a glazed entrance, and a two-over-two window is located on the addition's north wall.

The rear wing has two entrances on the east wall. The entrance occupying the center bay of the rear wing is more formal, with paneled recess walls, a molded door surround, and a transom of equal height as the one above the dining room door on the north elevation. The rear wing's south bay entrance is devoid of elaboration, suggesting a service use. Two interior chimneys pierce the gable end of the rear wing.

The rear wing's south wall blends seamlessly with the main block's south wall. The rear wing has two windows per floor, and the first floor windows have six-over-one fenestration while the second floor windows are six-over six.

Interior

The La Grange House interior is remarkably intact, illustrating several phases of construction and occupation. The entrance hall features a stair with a landing; and a curved niche in the wall is supposedly the location of a former window before the rear wing was added. The molding under the stair treads is very thick. The beefy newel post suggests a mid-nineteenth century construction; a narrow hallway leads under the upper part of the stairs to the rear ell. The stairs begin on the north wall of the stair hall, wind around the west wall at the landing, and then continue up the south wall. The corners of the entrance hall, to either side of the main entrance, are enclosed, hiding pipes leading from the bathroom installed above.

The room north of the entrance hall is accessed by a single door decorated with corner blocks in the surround. It has original multi-width flooring and solid window panels, and hand hewn ceiling beams. The room has a wide arched opening (to which modern dentils are applied) dividing the west half of the room from the east half of the room. The east half of the room currently contains the house's kitchen, with contemporary cabinets set against the west and south walls. Two iron fireplaces are set against the north wall. The west wall has two windows with solid window panels, and the east wall has a single window, marked by the inscribed initials of former resident Grace Stanley Rogers. A door from the north wall leads into the north wing.

The north wing's first floor is divided into a large main room with a fireplace and a small room to the north, accessed by an archway at the east side of the fireplace decorated with rosette blocks. The windows a feature paneled window walls. The original stairs have been replaced by contemporary stairs along (but separate from) the north wing's south wall. The upper levels of the north wing are similarly divided. The small room is lined with deep cabinets with tombstone-panel doors. They may have been a dressing chamber or storage for trunks, as the residents of La Grange House spent significant time traveling between La Grange House and residences in Baltimore City, as well as other locales.

A single room occupies the south half of the main block's first floor. It is a parlor with ca. 1910 modifications reflecting Adamesque or French influences. The wide opening between the stair hall and the parlor featured slender, fluted columns. A smaller doorway is at the east end of the north wall, adjoining the small hallway under the upper stair leg. The front windows that lead to the front porch are altered to a triple sash design; a single granite fireplace with arched opening and marble mantle is centered on the south wall between two windows. The west wall has a door leading to the rear wing. Elaborate plaster surrounds the chandelier.

The main block's second story has four bedrooms and a bathroom. The bathroom is located above the front door, and is a renovation dating to ca. 1910. The two north bedrooms require a step down to reach from the stair hall. They each have a fireplace, and the northeast bedroom's fireplace is off-center. The northeast bedroom accesses the second story of the north wing.

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During renovations, the current owners found the inscription of the year "1857" in this room, suggesting a possible construction date. The southwest bedroom has a corner closet and no fireplace. The southeast bedroom has built-in cabinets along the north wall and an entrance to the upper stair hall of the rear wing.

The rear wing's first floor contains a magnificent dining room, a spartan hallway with a second set of stairs, a former kitchen, and off the rear, a ca. 1930s mudroom with tongue and groove walls and ceiling. Antique, star-motif linoleum covers the floor of the hallway.

The dining room is approximately square in footprint, but it is asymmetrical. The west wall has a single doorway, leading from the main block's stair hall. The north wall has a half-glazed exterior door flanked two windows. The east wall has a paneled door (now leading to the rear mudroom addition), a center fireplace, and a built-in china cabinet. The south wall has a single door leading from the back hall. The dining room's doorway surrounds, as well as the fireplace and overmantle, feature an unusual oversized double-crossed motif. The original wallpaper is extant and exhibits a Greek-key border.

The rear wing's second floor contains a large room over the dining room known as the library, and a small room on the south side that may have been an office or servant's room. The library has three windows

Outbuildings

The 1977 MIHP form recorded several outbuildings on the property. North of the house is the building known as the schoolhouse, but its role as a schoolhouse has not been confirmed. It may have begun to be called this due to a misinterpretation of 1878 Martenet Map of Harford County, Maryland, which places a school house north of the La Grange House. The so-called schoolhouse's architectural style is Italianate with brackets and strong verticality. The Italianate style became popular after the Civil War, and such a style correlates to elements of the La Grange House, especially the rear wing. It is possible that it was a schoolhouse for the two daughters of the last ironmaster of La Grange Iron Works, Evans Stanley Rogers. Grace Stanley Rogers was born in 1861 and Mary Evans Rogers was born in 1868, so they would have been appropriate ages to be students in a schoolhouse built slightly following the Civil War, at a time when their father had acquired significant wealth and was increasing the value of his real estate. Grace and Mary's economic station would have allowed them to have a formal, private education, and research has shown that numerous individuals in their expanded family valued education for females.

An alternate explanation for this small building is that it may have served as a pay house. La Grange Iron Works ceased operation around 1874, but it seems to have been at its peak between 1860 and 1870. The school room's north elevation is open; the west elevation is devoid of openings. It has two sections of stone foundations, as the Wilsons converted the building to a garage in the early twentieth century, expanding it to the north and providing it with knob and tube electricity. The original structure would have had a masonry fireplace and a window on the north wall, removed during the conversion to a garage. The interior retains a closet with coat hooks, tongue and groove wallboards, and a loft. Pencil marks denoting mathematical exercises remain written on the wall.

The remaining outbuildings are more clearly defined by their use. A stone masonry springhouse/ summer kitchen is behind the house, partially built into the hillside. It is stone, with a slate roof that is partially collapsed. Gingerbread trims the cornice.

Immediately south of the springhouse/summer kitchen is a stone smokehouse. It is side-gabled, with a battened wood door.

A four-hole, stone-masonry privy is south of the house. It has a pyramidal slate-covered roof. A slate-lined sewer runs underground from the privy to the west.

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Two additional outbuildings are associated with La Grange House. Located just west of the La Grange Warehouse and Store, they are a frame corncrib and pump house, most likely dating to the early twentieth century. The frame corncrib has a stone pier foundation, vertical wood siding, and a front-gable roof covered with slate shingles. The pump house has a solid stone masonry foundation that is half underground. It also has a front-facing gable roof and vertical wood siding.

Property history

The La Grange House and Outbuildings are the most visible remaining physical evidence of the La Grange Iron Works. The La Grange House was the residence of La Grange Iron Work's ironmasters: Isaac Rogers, Joseph Rogers, and Evans Stanley Rogers, and their families, domestic servants, and at times, iron works employees. The following historic context will provide information on the Rogers family and will give particular attention to female members of the family because while they were not active in running La Grange Ironworks, these women inhabited La Grange House and likely influenced its appearance.

La Grange House itself is characteristic of large nineteenth century farmhouses in this section of Harford County. It was typical that large homes were constructed in phases over time. Stone was an abundant local building material. The nearby Gladden Farm House (MIHP # HA-1600, listed on the National Register of Historic Places) is another five-bay-wide, two-story house. Built ca. 1820, it measures 46 x 22 feet, similar in scale to the La Grange House. Houses with dimension of forty-something-feet by twenty-something-feet, with a central stair hall, are relatively common throughout Harford County. (1) These dimensions, along with the central hall floor plan, are also common in Pennsylvania, from where many Harford County residents of the nineteenth century migrated. The main block of the La Grange House exhibits these characteristics in a well executed manner, altered in the early twentieth-century by renovations that only add to the house's architectural interest.

The La Grange Iron Works began in the early 1830s when John Lewin established a forge. (2) In 1834, John Lewin sold his property to John Withers, one of the organizers of Harford Furnace, previously established in Abingdon, Harford County in 1830. (3) Withers, in turn, sold the property to Isaac and Joseph Rogers the same year. The name La Grange (or Lagrange) was not applied until the property was acquired by Isaac Rogers (1790-1865) of Chester County, Pennsylvania and his son Joseph McClellan Rogers (1812-1847).

Isaac was the son of William Rogers and Mary (Evans) Rogers, Quakers who lived in Chester County. (4) The Historic American Buildings Survey has recorded Mary's home completed shortly after William's death in 1806. Known as the Rogers-Hoopes House, it is a two-and-a-half-story, five bay, side-gabled stone masonry dwelling, but during the Rogers' family ownership (ca. 1806-1812), it was likely only a three-bay dwelling with a side passage entrance. (5) Isaac would have been a young man when the house was built, marrying for the first time during the Rogers' period of ownership. The Rogers-Hoopes House offers a direct example of the kind of house with which Isaac Rogers would have been familiar and establishes a standard for the kind of house a member of this family might build, as a similar plan, scale, and materials are found in Isaac's later residence, La Grange House, as well as details such as an interior arches and a window at the stair hall landing.

Isaac Rogers married a total of three times: his first wife was Martha McClellan (1789-1814), daughter of Revolutionary War General Joseph McClellan and Kezia Parke. Isaac married Martha (also known as Patty) in January 1812, in Lancaster, Pennsylvania by Rev. Muhlenberg (pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church). (6) Isaac and Martha's son Joseph McClellan Rogers was born later in 1812, and the same year, an Isaac Rogers of Chester County, Pennsylvania made his first land purchases in Harford County, Maryland. The land was purchased from John Yellott, Jr., and located along Winters Run. Martha died in Harford County on March 14, 1814, a month after their daughter Mary Ann was born and about two decades before Isaac and Joseph began

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building La Grange Iron Works. Isaac sold his Harford County land in 1815, and returned to Pennsylvania. During a similar period, Isaac's brothers John, Evans, and Charles established a hardware importing company in Philadelphia called Rogers Brothers, established 1805. By 1814, John Rogers began a gunsmith operation in Valley Forge, Pennsylvania; by 1817 his factory made muskets for the U.S. Ordnance Department, and by 1818, the Rogers family established a steel furnace at Valley Forge. Isaac is not noted as involved in these endeavors, but he likely saw the success of his brothers, which may have inspired him to establish his own industry.(7)

Isaac Rogers married Hannah Sharples(s) (born 1785) sometime between 1814 (when Martha McClellan died) and prior to 1820, when he appears in the 1820 Census in Brandywine Township, Chester County, Pennsylvania, in a household that included 2 free colored persons, and a total of three persons engaged in agriculture. Chester County Land Records indicate that in 1819, Isaac bought land in Brandywine township. Isaac and Hannah's son Evans Stanley Rogers was born in 1822, and their daughter Martha was born in 1824. In 1826, Isaac and Hannah of Brandywine Township sold some property. Isaac Rogers bought addition land in Chester County in 1834, and in 1835 and 1836, Isaac and Hannah sold land in Chester County, suggesting their move to Harford County.

While Joseph and Mary Ann Rogers were not raised by their mother Martha, the McClellan family likely contributed to their upbringing as indicated by the name of La Grange for the iron works. Martha's father, Joseph McClellan, had fought with the Marquis de Lafayette at the Battle of Brandywine (Pennsylvania) during the Revolutionary War and La Grange was the name of the Marquis de Lafayette's French castle. (8) The Marquis died in 1834, the same year Isaac and Joseph Rogers began acquiring land in this part of Harford County.

Acquisition of land that became La Grange began in 1834 when Isaac's son Joseph was about 21 years old. Harford County Land Records indicates that Isaac and Joseph Rogers were both living in Chester County, Pennsylvania in 1834 when they began buying land at Deer Creek. Joseph Rogers is noted as residing in Harford County in 1835. Isaac Rogers appears to have made the move by 1837, likely accompanied by his wife Hannah, daughters Mary Ann (age 23) and Martha (age 13) and son Evans Stanley (age 15). It remains unknown if the Rogers family began occupying La Grange House in 1837, but it is likely that at least part of the family resided in the structure at that time, due to its proximity to the La Grange forge and furnace. La Grange House would have only have its first one or two phases completed in the 1830s. This may have been too crowded for a family of six, suggesting that the females may have stayed in Chester County, Pennsylvania with relatives or another residence owned by Isaac. However, Hannah died at La Grange in 1843 when she was 58 years old. (9) It is likely she would have been living at La Grange by that time, and if Hannah had continued her Quaker faith, she may have attended the Old Forrest Meeting, which was located nearby in Sharon from 1824 to 1858 before relocating to Forest Hill.(10)

At least one member of the extended family lived and worked at La Grange for a time. One of Isaac's nephews, Evans (no middle name) Rogers (born ca. 1825), the son of Isaac's brother John, apprenticed with Isaac at La Grange from about 1840-1843, before going to Baltimore to be an iron merchant, working in partnership with other Rogers family members and others.(11) John Rogers had retired from his Valley Forge industries and Philadelphia commerce in 1836, began farming in Montgomery County, Pennsylvania, and died in 1838. John and Isaac's brother Evans continued the Rogers Brothers hardware business

The La Grange House was built in several phases, and it is possible part of it predated acquisition by the Rogers family. The left (north) rooms of the main block may be the original, two-bay portion, but it is not clear where the entrance would have been, as neither of the front windows appear to have been altered from a door. Existing doorways on the north and south walls are not likely to have been main entrances, as they are located on gable ends, and it was unusual to orient an entrance on the gable end in this region in the nineteenth century. Because no stairs are present in the north rooms of the main block, it is unclear how the second story would have been accessed without stairs in the north wing.

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Alternatively, the north wing may be the original dwelling, dating perhaps to the very late eighteenth century. While the exterior appears nearly Georgian in its symmetry, it is slightly asymmetrical. The interior of the north wing is even less symmetrical. One would have entered the house onto a large room with a fireplace. A smaller room is located behind the fireplace, accessed by a wide archway east of the fireplace. The original stairs have been replaced; perhaps the original stairs were enclosed winder stairs suggesting an eighteenth century construction date.

Comparing La Grange House to other historic houses in Harford County, it is common for a house to have multiple heights present in the primary façade, but the shortest section is more often a one-and-a-half-story section rather than a two-story section as found in La Grange. Perhaps if the north wing is the original section, the second story was expanded from a half-story to a full story after the north half of the main block was built. A one-and-a-half story house could have been built in the late eighteenth century, or more likely early nineteenth century.

At an unknown date, Mary Ann Rogers married Robert Mitchell Magraw (1811-1866), who was the son of the headmaster of the Presbyterian-affiliated West Nottingham Academy in Cecil County. Robert Magraw had graduated from West Nottingham Academy in 1828. As early as 1845, Robert M. Magraw was in partnership with the Rogers family, in the firm, Rogers and Magraw, Baltimore iron merchants. Robert M. Magraw became president of the Baltimore and Susquehanna Railroad from 1846-1852, and was the first president of the Western Maryland Railroad from 1852-1854. This allowed La Grange Ironworks to supply iron to these railroads. Even after Mary Ann Magraw died in 1855 at La Grange, Robert Magraw remained close to the Rogers family.(12) The 1860 Census records Robert M. Magraw living at 37 North Calvert Street Baltimore with Isaac Rogers and his third wife Jane. Magraw died in 1866 in New York and is buried at the West Nottingham Presbyterian Cemetery.(13) In 1846, Martha Rogers married Joshua Hartshorne. Joshua Hartshorne, a Presbyterian, was also originally from Cecil County, Maryland, and was also educated at West Nottingham Academy before going to Chester County, Pennsylvania where he was a merchant and politician. The first of Martha and Joshua's five children was born in Harford County ca. 1847 (presumably at La Grange). Their second child was born in Chester County, Pennsylvania (in 1849), and the three youngest were born in Baltimore City. Indeed, by 1849, Joshua Hartshorne had joined the family firm, which changed its name to Hartshorne, Rogers, and Magraw. The iron dealers had premises at 16 Water Street, Baltimore, and the Hartshornes lived in Baltimore until Joshua retired to West Chester, Pennsylvania around 1870.(14)

In 1844, Joseph Rogers sold his share of the La Grange Iron Works to his half-brother, Evans Stanley Rogers. Meanwhile, Joseph Rogers went to Baltimore and entered business with Horace Abbott (they were creditors of the Baltimore and Rappahannock Steam Packet Company in 1846). Joseph Rogers also entered business with his brothers-in-law as iron merchants. While traveling home from the popular Pennsylvania resort at Bedford Springs, Joseph Rogers became ill. He died in Hancock, Maryland, in 1847, at age 35, and his will differentiates between the full-blood relationship with his sister Mary Ann who had already become Mary Ann Magraw and his siblings by "half-blood" Evans Stanley Rogers, and Martha, who had already become Martha Hartshorne. Isaac Rogers was the executor of the will, which had to be tried in court in Baltimore as Joseph' longtime assistant, Elijah Boofter, felt Joseph had intended to include him in his will.(15)

Evans Stanley Rogers and Isaac Rogers continued to amass land purchases for La Grange, and in 1849, their purchases began including Isaac's third wife Jane as part owner. The Rogers also began selling land at this point in time, as well as still acquiring new, suggesting that they had depleted the resources for which they had purchased the land. Two interesting transactions are that in 1854, the Rogers deeded one acre of land to Harford County for the erection of a public school, but this school was located further north of the house than the "schoolroom" immediately adjacent the La Grange House. In 1860, they sold land to the trustees of the Presbyterian Church.

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Isaac appears to have married his third wife, Jane, between February and May 1849, according to the date in which she begins appearing in Harford County land records. According to Cope and Ashmead, Jane's maiden name as Nisbett, which is likely a slight mis-spelling of Nisbet. Census records state she was born in Pennsylvania around 1803. Jane appears as a partner with Isaac Rogers and Evans Stanley Rogers in land records, which may have meant that she had her own money. The matriarch of the Nisbet family in Pennsylvania was a Scottish emigrant who was the first president of Dickinson College in Carlisle, Pennsylvania. One of his sons, Alexander Nisbet, became a judge in Baltimore and was also president of the Baltimore and Susquehanna Railroad in the 1830s. Due to the similar interests and locations of the Nisbet and Rogers families, it is logical to connect Isaac's wife Jane to this Nisbet family. Additionally, the Rogerses' hauled iron from La Grange to White Hall, on the Northern Central Railway; Judge Nisbet's country estate was on the Northern Central Railway. Isaac likely spent significant time in Baltimore during the trial relating to the settling of Joseph Rogers' will, which was heard in the Orphans Court in March 1849, in the likely window of Isaac's marriage to Jane.(16)

The year "1857" has been found on the plaster in the northeast bedroom of the main block. This may suggest a construction date for this section of the house, or it may relate to upkeep of a previously constructed section. 1857 was several years after Isaac had married Jane, but the year in which Alexander Nisbet, who was likely her father, died. If Jane was the daughter of Judge Nisbet, her mother would have been Mary Cockey Owings, a member of prominent families of Cockeysville. Historic photographs of a Cockey residence, Melrose (BA-77), shows possible inspirations for the phased construction, with a ca. 1800 section having an off-center chimney. No images were found of Judge Nisbet's home called Montrose (BA-82).(17) It is possible that Jane's ca. 1849 arrival at La Grange triggered the construction of additions to La Grange House.

In 1861, Isaac and Jane Rogers moved to Baltimore City and transferred their ownership in La Grange to Evans Stanley Rogers, following a move to Baltimore the previous year. At the 1860 Census, Evans Stanley Rogers (38) owned real estate worth \$18,000 and had a personal estate worth about \$30,000. He was the head of the household, and listed the Forge and Furnace as his occupation. Other members of his household enumerated were manager Franklin Boaman (29), clerk David Hany (30), housekeeper Mary McComes (40), and apprentice James Stewart (15), along with two mulatto slaves. (18)

In November 1860, Evans Stanley Rogers married Mary Jane Ege at St. Paul's (Episcopal) Church in Baltimore. Mary's parents were Andrew Galbraith Ege (1813-1876) and Margaret McKaleb (1813-1851). Andrew Ege was born at Boiling Springs, Cumberland County, Pennsylvania, the location of the Carlisle Furnace, owned by Andrew's grandfather Michael Ege, who owned a total of four furnaces and two forges in Pennsylvania. Andrew's mother was Mary Galbraith, daughter of Major Andrew Galbraith, officer in the Revolutionary War. Andrew Ege was educated at West Nottingham Academy in Cecil County and St. Mary's College in Westminster, Maryland. In 1834, Andrew married Margaret Ann McKaleb, daughter of Major John McKaleb of Westminster, who had been an officer in the War of 1812. Although Andrew's family had been ironmasters for several generations (running Carlisle, Pine Grove, and Boiling Springs Furnaces), Andrew Ege chose a different career, establishing a model farm in Carroll County, Maryland. Andrew and Margaret had five children: Mary Jane (b. 1835); John McKaleb (b. 1836); Andrew Galbraith, Jr. (b. 1838); Edward Augustus (b. 1840); and William McKaleb (b. 1841). In 1844, Ege built a large fine home near Taneytown called Antrim (MIHP No. CARR-264); it is an example of Greek Revival ornament applied to a large brick vernacular house.(19)

Mary would have lived at Antrim from about age 9 through the remainder of her youth. Her father held a prominent position in the community, serving as a Maryland State Representative in 1845-46, and a soldier and officer in the Mexican War (1846-48), gaining the title of Colonel. Her mother died in 1851 and her father soon remarried, fathering a second group of children. In 1856, Andrew sold the Antrim estate and moved permanently to Kansas, becoming a real-estate prospector and developer of Doniphan County. Census records indicate Mary Ege stayed in Carroll County, Maryland, residing with her mother's sister, Sarah McKaleb, and her husband Col. John K. Longwell and their family which included several daughters. Longwell was another

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Eligibility recommended

Eligibility not recommended

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prominent citizen of Carroll County, who had served in the Maryland Senate from 1850-1854 and 1871-1875, was a director of Westminster Bank and the Western Maryland Railroad, and president of the Baltimore and Reisterstown Turnpike. Longwell's large house, called Emerald Hill, was built in 1842, and is now the City Hall of Westminster (MIHP No, CARR-545). Emerald Hill is a five-bay wide, central-hall, double-pile dwelling with Georgian features. Like Antrim it features mantels by sculptor William Rinehart, exhibiting the effort at incorporating artistic style into the house. These houses may have influenced Mary's taste and desire for a high style home. The arrival of Evans Stanley and Mary Rogers' elder daughter Grace Stanley was in 1861, and their younger daughter Mary Evans was born in 1868.(20)

In 1851, Isaac and Evans Stanley Rogers had purchased twenty-two acres adjoining Westminster in Carroll County with plans for mining iron ore and establishing a furnace, which suggests one avenue by which Evans Stanley Rogers met Mary Ege. Because Longwell was a director of the Western Maryland Railroad, he likely knew Robert Magraw, Evans Stanley Rogers' former brother-in-law, who was still active in the family firm and lived with Isaac and Jane. Likewise, Mary Jane's father had attended the same school, West Nottingham Academy, as Robert Magraw and Joshua Hartshorne.

As La Grange Iron Works became more successful, Isaac and Evans Stanley Rogers became involved in numerous endeavors to continue their success. Isaac worked with his neighbors as early as 1838 to have a bridge built over Deer Creek at La Grange Iron Works. A covered bridge was completed at this location by 1847.(21) In 1854, Evans Stanley Rogers sailed to Liverpool, with dispatches to London. (22) In 1856, Evans Stanley Rogers became a commissioner for the White Hall, Jarrettsville, and La Grange Turnpike Company, but this turnpike does not seem to have been constructed, despite charter from the Maryland General Assembly. In 1858, Isaac Rogers and Son were issued a trading license in Harford County. In 1860, Evans Stanley Rogers became a commissioner for a turnpike from Rocks of Deer Creek to the Northern Branch of the Baltimore and Harford Turnpike at Little Gunpowder Falls. This turnpike remained un-built.

The Civil War appears to have benefitted the Rogers family, economically. C. Milton Wright includes a list of Harford County landowners who were found to be disloyal to the Union and in 1863, fined an amount appropriate to their landholdings. Evan S. Rogers appears on this list, fined \$472.00, which was more than any other individual in the Fourth or Fifth District. (23) While this suggests Evans Stanley Rogers was a Confederate sympathizer, the original MIHP form for La Grange suggests that La Grange Iron Works provided the iron for the turret of the ironclad known as the Monitor, a Union vessel. Horace Abbott at Canton Iron Works rolled the armor plates for the turret of the Monitor in 1862, but the Rogers had not been closely associated with Abbott since the late 1840s. Nevertheless, the 1863 E.M. Cross Baltimore Directory lists only eight iron merchant firms, one of which was Hartshorne and another of which was Rogers & Brooke, so one-quarter of the Baltimore iron merchant firms had a close connection to La Grange Iron Works. In 1864, an Evans Rogers entered a partnership with Horace Brooke and A. Mehaffey, calling the firm A. Mehaffey and Co., for making pig iron at the Chesapeake Furnace in Canton. It is not clear whether this is Evans (no middle name) Rogers or Evans Stanley Rogers. While Evans (no middle name) Rogers had announced his retirement in 1860 and the dissolution of his firm Rogers and Weatherall, his name appears in City Directories until 1864.

Isaac Rogers died in Baltimore in December 1865, the year the Civil War ended. The following year, 1866, Martha and Joshua Hartshorne constructed a large summer home in West Chester, Pennsylvania. Designed by architect Addison Hutton and built by Henry P. Sharpless (first cousin of Martha Hartshorne through her mother), the house is listed on the National Register of Historic Places as the Barclay Home. Joshua Hartshorne retired from Baltimore around 1872.

Following the Civil War, Evans Stanley Rogers appears more frequently in Baltimore (perhaps because he had been elected a director of the Chesapeake Bank in 1865). He is listed in the City Directory being associated with Hoffman, Thompson & Co and living at 26 Read Street. In 1867, he served Harford County as a delegate to the Maryland Constitutional Convention, and he also was one of the incorporators of the Maryland Central Railroad, along with Johns Hopkins, Thomas Symington, and Robert

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Gilmor.(24)

At the 1870 Census, Evans Stanley Rogers was found in Harford County. He has no occupation listed, and the value of his real estate is \$85,000 and the value of his personal estate was \$88,000 (more than double what it had been in 1860). Evans Stanley Rogers likely inherited some of his father's estate when he died in 1865, but he also likely increased his own wealth through selling iron. The increase in value of real estate suggests (and the architecture correlates) that major additions had been made to La Grange House and the Iron Works. Evans Stanley Rogers headed a household including his wife Mary (32), daughter Grace (8), daughter Mary (3), and nine domestic servants, including the same Mary as ten years prior (her last name spelled McComb). The servants also included Kate McCue (16), Esther (illegible last name), Eliza Hutchinson, Jaine Baird, Elizabeth Bird, Thomas Butler, John Bowie, and William Planter. The La Grange House would have needed to expand significantly to house both the family members and the staff and the architectural style of the rear wing correlates with an addition at this time. It seems that the outbuildings may have also dated from this expansion era.(25)

In 1871, the first iron bridge in Harford County was built over Deer Creek at La Grange, replacing the covered bridge formerly providing the crossing and sufficiently announcing the beauty, strength, and usefulness of iron.(24) By 1874, however, the La Grange furnace was abandoned, as the Bessemer process had been introduced in the 1860s, changing the way iron could be produced more efficiently. Evans Stanley Rogers hoped to reignite the furnace once the railroad reached La Grange, and he invested significantly in the railroad, but he died in 1882 before seeing the railroad completed.

Mary Ege had previously died, in 1877, leaving Grace and Mary Rogers parent-less. They resided in Mount Vernon in Baltimore as well as at La Grange and seem to have followed somewhat in the footsteps of their elder cousin Julia Rebecca Rogers, the daughter of Evans (no middle Name) Rogers. Julia was part of the Friday Evening Group of young ladies that founded Bryn Mawr School, and she was a primary benefactor to Goucher College's library. (26) Julia, and neither Grace nor Mary ever married, but they traveled widely. Julia was one of their closer relatives as Mary Evans Rogers specifically left her a silver service and table silver in her will. Another close relative was Fairman Rogers, who held great wealth and lived the life of a gentleman. Grace and Mary both died young, in 1899 and 1904, respectively. Their wills left funds to the Rock Spring Episcopal Church (where they are buried, along with their parents and grandfather) and to Johns Hopkins Children's Hospital as well as to individually-named friends.

As the chain of title in the original MIHP form indicates, the Wilson Family were the next owners of La Grange House beginning in the early twentieth century. Newspaper and census records indicate James Clarence and Josephine Wilson operated the La Grange property as a dairy farm, which correlate with additions to the adjacent La Grange Barn that converted it to dairy operations. Dairy farms became common in Harford County once the railroad opened up Harford County to the Baltimore market for perishable goods. According to the present owner of La Grange House, Josephine directed significant changes to the house around 1910. These alterations included extending the windows of the parlor in the south part of the main block and added the bathroom to the second floor. The dormer windows and full porch may have been also added at this time. Josephine and Clarence's daughter Frances Mary married Lawrence Hince and eventually inherited the property.

In the 1950s, Frances Wilson Hince ran a rest home at La Grange, her childhood home, advertising it under various names and classifications. At first, it appears she suggested it to retired persons as a vacation spot, and then by 1955, called it the "Rocks of Deer Creek Rest Home". Its qualities included tall trees, coolness in summer, and a non-institutional setting.(27) The current owner indicated that a ramp was built on the north side of the house to the second floor bedrooms. Due to the L-shape of the house, this ramp would have not been visible from the public right-of-way. The ramp has been fully removed.

In the 1970s, Frances Hince sold La Grange to architect Leonard Mankowski, who completed some rehabilitation on the house.

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Michael and Deborah Coomes, the current owners, acquired the property in 2002 and have worked towards returning original materials and appearance to the property. While the 1977 survey form by Paul Penrod and Susan Deeney states that the windows are replacement, the current owners located the original windows stored elsewhere on the property, and have returned them to their original locations. The overall integrity is high, although some historic materials have been replaced, such as the roofing and the original brick chimneys.

NRHP Evaluation

The La Grange Iron Works was one of about forty-seven furnaces in Maryland established between 1722 and 1889. Of these, the La Grange Iron Works was fairly typical in its amount of production and length of operation. It began with a forge, which is defined as a workplace for heating metals, and later a cold-blast furnace was built, then a hot-blast furnace replaced the cold-blast furnace. The furnace was thirty-five feet tall, and located across Deer Creek in what is now Rocks State Park. In 1853, La Grange's capacity was 1,000 tons of iron per annum, which was the smallest amount of the Maryland thirty-one stacks at that time. In comparison, the largest iron company, Ashland Furnace in Baltimore County, could produce 7,000 tons of iron a year. By 1859, the La Grange Hot-blast Charcoal Furnace could produce 780 tons of iron in only 6 months of the year. (28) While the Civil War brought great demand for iron, the years from 1865-1885 marked a rapid decline in Maryland iron industry, as twenty-seven furnaces were abandoned, including La Grange, which was abandoned in 1874.

The La Grange House and Outbuildings are tangible evidence of the success of La Grange Iron Works during the Civil War. It is an imposing house that sits where it had views of the Iron Works, which is typical of the location of an ironmaster's house. Several other houses in Maryland are extant examples of houses built for the owners of early industrial complexes, but few are so closely tied to an iron works. Thus, the La Grange House and Outbuildings are eligible for the NRHP under Criteria A, and the period of significance is the approximately fifty years Evans Stanley Rogers lived at La Grange from ca. 1832 to 1882.

While La Grange House and Outbuildings are associated with prominent people, these individuals are do not transcend to the level of significant persons, as their prominence remained relatively local, and they do not appear to have made lasting contributions to our history. Therefore, La Grange House and Outbuildings are not eligible under Criterion B.

La Grange House is a significant as an example of mid-nineteenth century domestic architecture, representing the evolution of a simple vernacular stone structure to an ironmaster's mansion that exhibits elements of Adamesque and Greek Revival elements, while also displaying regional building preferences. The house exhibits the telescoping plan characteristic of Harford County, but it is also a center-hall, double-pile plan that became popular during the early nineteenth century and has remained popular since. The exceptional double-crosetted molding found within the dining room is a rare snapshot of post-bellum style. This example is particularly rare as it is found in rural Harford County and not in a population center such as Baltimore or Philadelphia. This high-style device illustrates the Rogers' exposure to current trends. Similarly, the renovations made by Josephine Wilson in the early twentieth century reflect her attempt to modernize the house while keeping its historic character. The La Grange outbuildings include well-built examples of historic building types including stone masonry combination springhouse and summer kitchen, a smoke house, and privy. The schoolroom or payhouse/ garage is almost an architectural folly, as it is a small building of indeterminate use, exhibiting high-style architectural decoration such as Italianate brackets and hoods. Thus, the La Grange House and Outbuildings are eligible for the NRHP under Criteria C.

The La Grange House and Outbuildings were not evaluated under Criterion D as part of this assessment.

The boundary for the area that is considered eligible for the National Register of Historic Places is the parcel on which the House and Outbuildings stand (Tax Map 25, Parcel 237, Lot 4). It is adjacent the parcel containing the La Grange Warehouse and Store

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Eligibility recommended

Eligibility not recommended

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MIHP # HA-30), which are also recommended eligible for the NRHP. It is noted that remnants of the La Grange Furnace are extant within Rocks State Park including stone walls built into the hillside, a collier pit and slag heap located on an artificial terrace, and wagon road traces. Additionally, a mill race that led to the La Grange Forge from Deer Creek is also extant within the park. While the Forge and Furnace sites add to the understanding of La Grange House and Outbuildings, they do not retain necessary integrity to expand the NRHP boundary to encompass them.

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- (7) Gilbert Cope and Henry Graham Ashmead. *Historic Homes and Institutions and Genealogical and Personal Memoirs of Chester and Delaware Counties, Pennsylvania*. (New York: Lewis Publishing Co, 1904) 40.
- (8) Site visit with Deborah Coomes.
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- (18) US Federal Census, 1860.
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- (21) "La Grange Iron Works or Rocks Road Covered Bridge." Accessed online at <http://mdcoveredbridges.com/lagrange.html> 18 March, 2013.
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- (23) "Sailing of the Europa," *The Sun* (1837-1987); Oct 26, 1854; ProQuest Historical Newspapers: Baltimore Sun, The (1837-1987), pg. 2.
- (24) George Washington Howard, *The Monumental City* (Baltimore: J. D. Ehlers & Company, 1873), 982.
- (25) Kathleen Waters Sander, *Mary Elizabeth Garrett: Society and Philanthropy in the Gilded Age*, (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins, 2011) 50 12.
- (26) *Maryland Affairs: Harford County: Completion of A Bridge*. *The Sun* (1837-1987); Apr 29, 1871; ProQuest Historical

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MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

Eligibility recommended

Eligibility not recommended

Criteria: A B C D Considerations: A B C D E F G

MHT Comments:

Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

Date

Reviewer, National Register Program

Date

HA-31

La Grange House and Outbuildings

Page 17

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MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW**Eligibility recommended****Eligibility not recommended****Criteria:** A B C D **Considerations:** A B C D E F G**MHT Comments:****Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services****Date****Reviewer, National Register Program****Date**

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MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

Eligibility recommended _____ Eligibility not recommended _____

Criteria: ___ A ___ B ___ C ___ D Considerations: ___ A ___ B ___ C ___ D ___ E ___ F ___ G

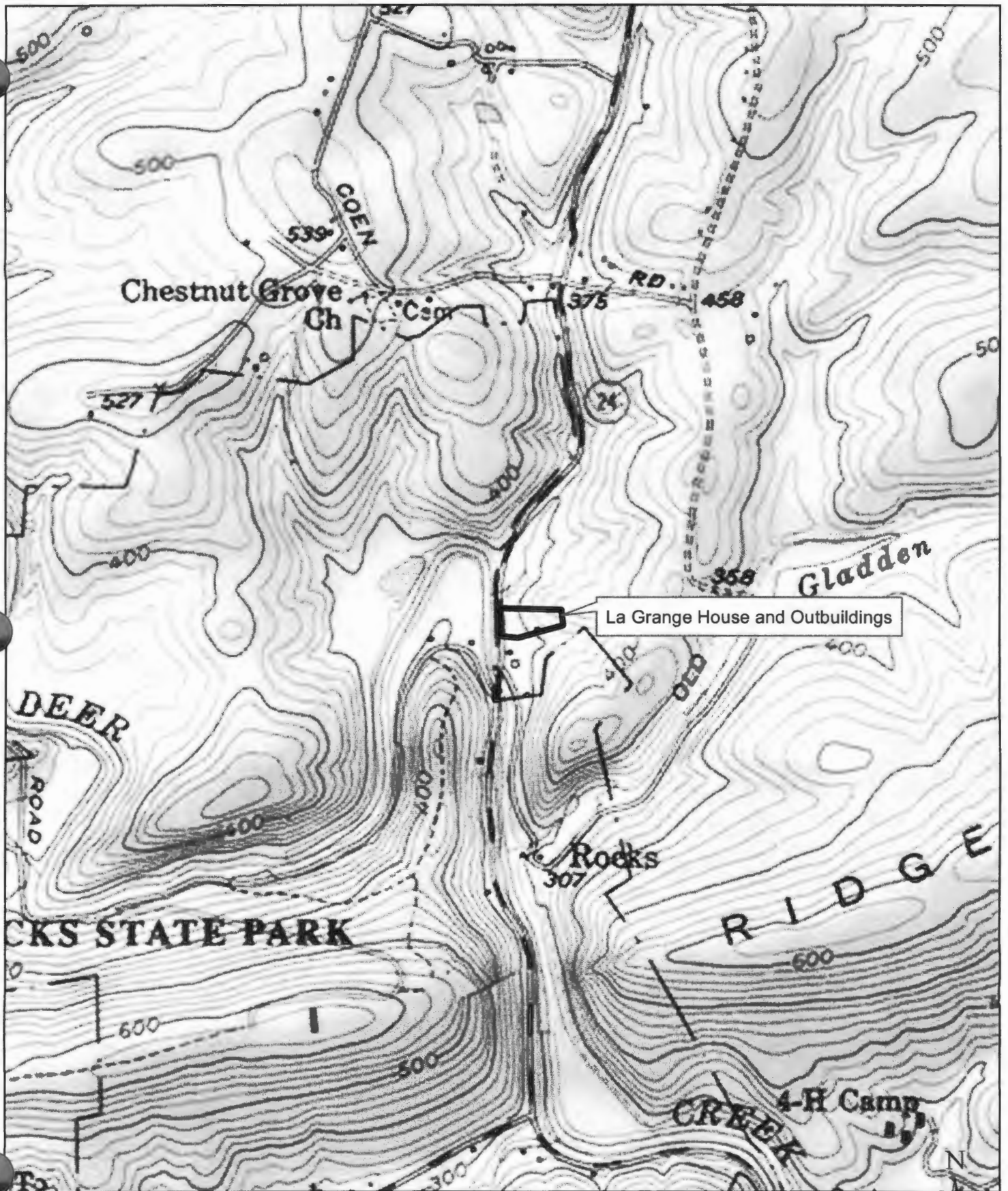
MHT Comments:

Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

Date

Reviewer, National Register Program

Date

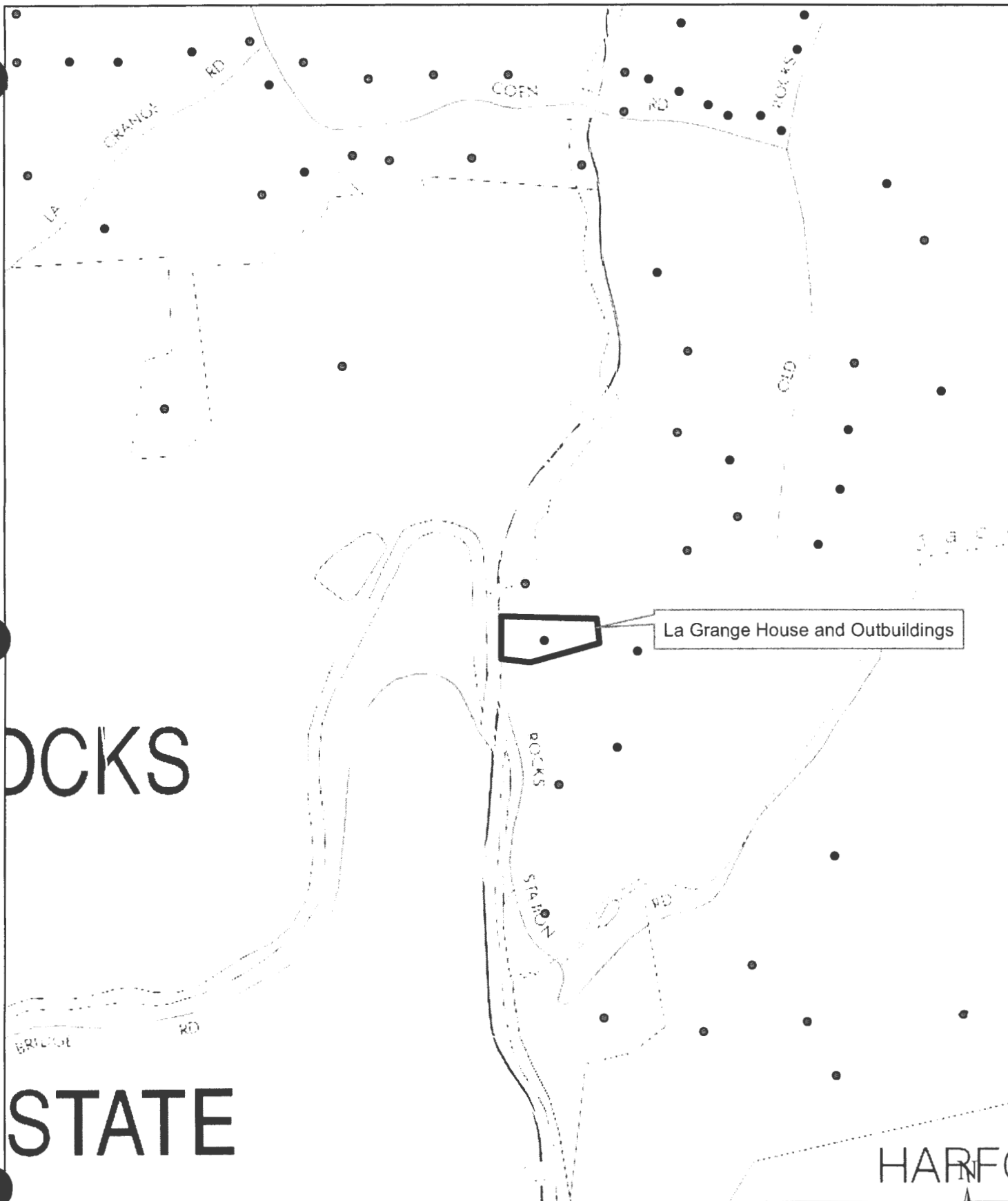


Topographic Map
La Grange House and Outbuildings, MIHP # HA-31
3901 Rocks Road, Street, Maryland
(Harford County, Fawn Grove Quad)

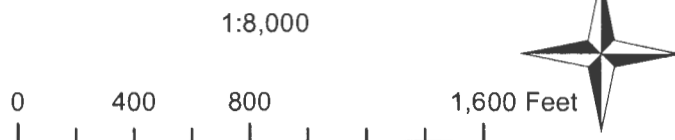
1:12,000

0 600 1,200 2,400 Feet





Property Tax Map,
La Grange House and Outbuildings, MIHP # HA-31
3901 Rocks Road, Street, Maryland
(Harford County, Fawn Grove Quad)



Maryland State Highway Administration
Cultural Resources Section
Photo Log

Project No.: HA334A21

Project Name: MD 24 at Rocks State Park

MIHP No.: HA-31

MIHP Name: La Grange House and Outbuildings

County: Harford

Photographer: Rebecca Crew

Date: 28 September 2012

Ink and Paper Combination: Epson UltraChrome pigmented ink/Epson Premium Luster Photo Paper

CD/DVD: Verbatim, CD-R, Archival Gold

Image File Name	Description of View
HA-31_2012-09-28_01	View facing northeast towards La Grange house.
HA-31_2012-09-28_02	View facing east towards the house.
HA-31_2012-09-28_03	Detail of seam between construction phases of the house.
HA-31_2012-09-28_04	View facing southeast towards house.
HA-31_2012-09-28_05	View facing southwest towards three construction phases of the house.
HA-31_2012-09-28_06	View facing south towards rear ell.
HA-31_2012-09-28_07	View facing north towards house, showing springhouse/summer kitchen at rear.
HA-31_2012-09-28_08	View facing northeast towards "schoolhouse".
HA-31_2012-09-28_09	View facing northeast towards springhouse/ summer kitchen (left) and smokehouse (right).
HA-31_2012-09-28_10	View facing south towards privy.
HA-31_2012-09-28_11	View facing southeast towards pump house.
HA-31_2012-09-28_12	View facing south towards corn crib.



HA-31

La Grange House and Outbuildings

Harford Co., MD

R. Crew

9/28/12

MD SHPD

view facing northeast towards La Grange house

1/12



HA-31

LaGrange House and Outbuildings

Harford Co, MD

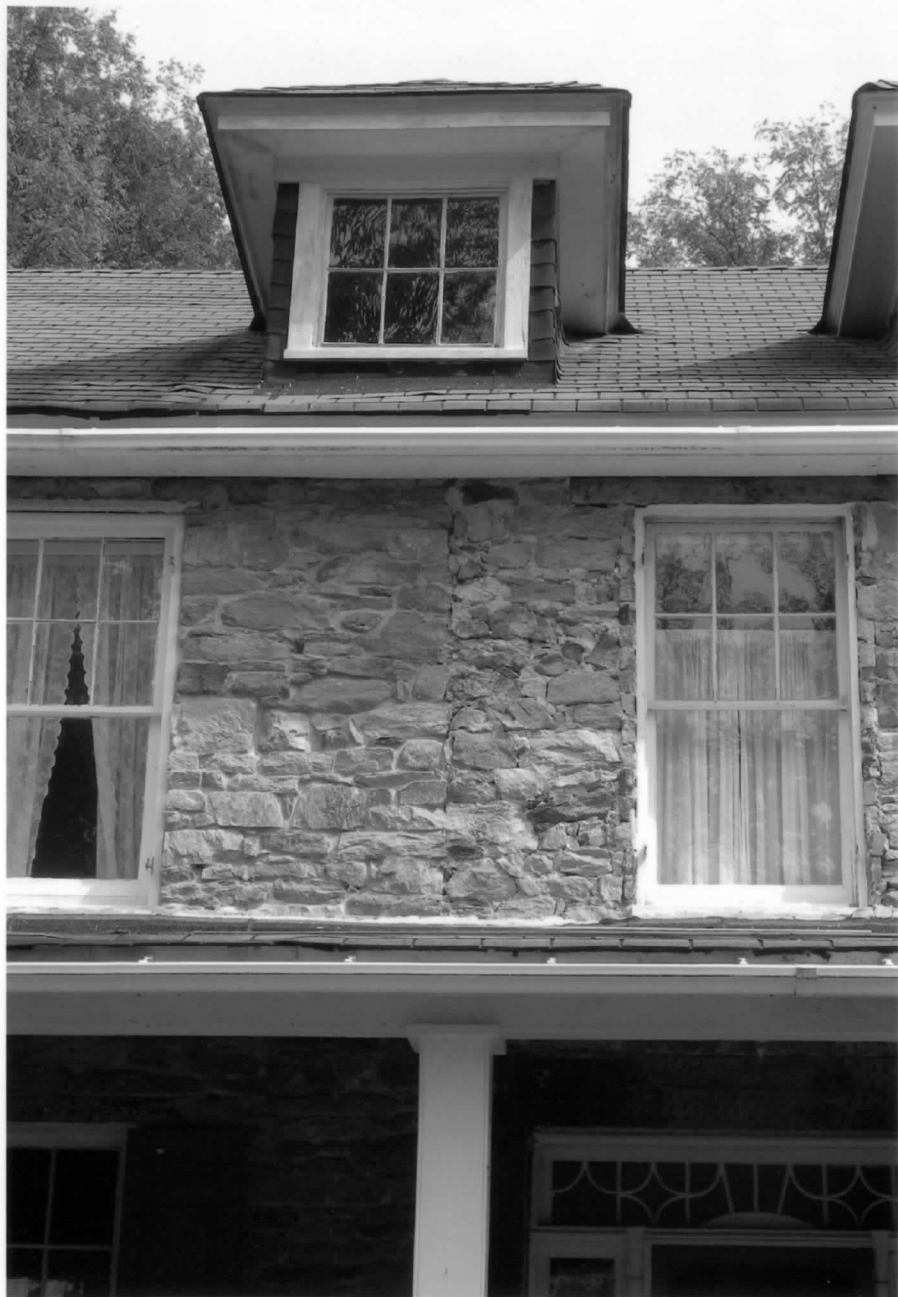
R Crew

9/28/12

MD SHPO

View facing east towards house

2/12



HA-31

La Grange House & Outbuilding

Aarford Co, MD

R. Crew

9/28/12

MD SHPU

Detail of seam between construction
phases of house

3/12



HA-31

LaGrange House and Outbuildings

Hartford Co, MD

R. Crew

9/28/12

MD SHPO

View facing Southeast towards house

4/12



HA-31

LaGrange House and Outbuildings

Hartford Co, MD

R. Crew

9/28/12

MD SHPO

View facing southwest towards
three construction phases of house
S/12

Epson
Professional Paper



HA-31

LaGrange House and Outbuilding

Hartford Co, MD

R. Crew

9/28/12

MD SHPO

View facing south towards rear ell.

6/12



HA-31

LaGrange House and Outbuildings

Hartford Co, MD

R. Crew

9/28/12

MD SHPD

View facing north towards house, showing
springhouse/summer kitchen at rear.

7/12



HA-31

LaGrange House and Outbuilding

Hartford Co, MD

R. Crew

9/28/12

MD SHPD

View facing northeast towards "school house"

8/12



#A-31

Lorange House and Outbuildings

Harford Co., MD

R. Crew

9/28/12

MD SHPO

View facing northeast towards springhouse /

summer kitchen (left) and smokehouse (right)

9/12



HA-31

LaGrange House and Outbuildings

Hartford Co, MD

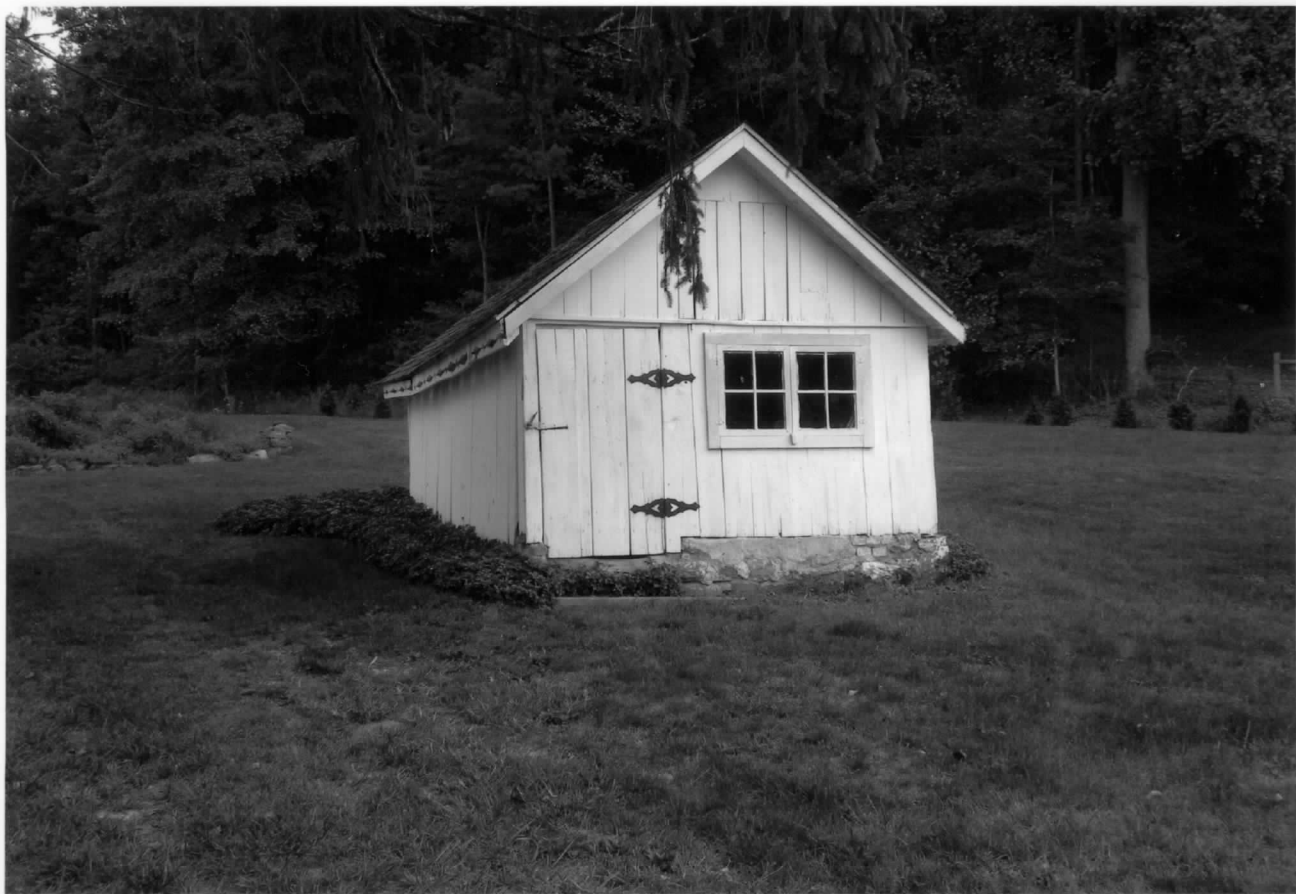
R. Crew

9/28/12

MD SHPO

View facing south towards privy

10/12



HA-31

LaGrange House and Outbuildings

Harford Co, MD

R. Crew

9/28/12

MD SHPO

View facing southeast towards pump house

11/12



HA-31

LaGrange House and outbuildings

Hartford Co, MD

R. Crew

9/28/12

MD SHPD

View facing south ~~west~~ towards corn crib.

12/12

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

HA-31, 32

1300314304

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

La Grange House and Outbuildings

AND/OR COMMON

(LaGrange House - LaGrange Smokehouse)

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

204 A Rocks Road,

eastern side of State Route #24, just north of Deer Creek Bridge and the intersection with Rocks Station Rd.

CITY, TOWN

Forest Hill VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

First

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Harford

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT
☒ BUILDING(S)
☐ STRUCTURE
☒ SITE
☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC
☒ PRIVATE
☐ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS
☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED
☐ UNOCCUPIED
☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

☒ YES: RESTRICTED
☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED
☐ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE
☐ COMMERCIAL
☐ EDUCATIONAL
☐ ENTERTAINMENT
☐ GOVERNMENT
☐ INDUSTRIAL
☐ MILITARY
☐ MUSEUM
☐ PARK
☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE
☐ RELIGIOUS
☐ SCIENTIFIC
☐ TRANSPORTATION
☐ OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

L. E. Mankowski

Telephone #: 838-1254

STREET & NUMBER

204 A Rocks Road

CITY, TOWN

Forest Hill

VICINITY OF

Maryland

STATE, zip code

21050

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Harford County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

40 South Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Bel Air

STATE

Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This structure faces the Rocks Road, to the west, and is divided into three parts, all of these being two-story. The main section, a perpendicular wing on the former's southeast corner, and a unit attached to the northern wall of the main section comprise these three units. This main portion has walls of stucco over stone and measures five bays by four. Those along the southern exposure are spaced in pairs on both floors and are trimmed with old panelled shutters. There are a pair of 3 X 3 attic openings on either gable end. The other sashes are 6 X 6 and are not original. Two windows south of the western portal on the first floor are floor-length. The door itself has three-pane sidelights and an intricately-patterned transom. The roof is gable-flank and asphalt, with box cornices and frieze trim. Two recently-added hip dormers, with cornices and 3 X 3 windows, face the west. A seven-bay shed-roof porch encloses the entire western facade, fronted with cut stone steps. Two corbeled brick chimneys are located on the extreme inside ends. A cellarway can be found on the southern embrasure.

The attached section to the north is similar in construction, except that it is a shorter two stories, measuring three bays by one. Again, the window configuration is 6 X 6, and there are opposite doors with transoms and panelled insets, on the eastern and western sides. A tall, brick corbeled flue is positioned on the northern inside-end on the gable-flank roof.

The rear wing has walls of stucco over brick and stone, and measures two bays by one. The slate roof is gable-flank and intersects the ridgeline of the main house. A brick chimney is sited on the eastern inside-end.

The Outbuildings

North of the house is a frame, one-story schoolroom, with three openings on the western facade and two on the southern exposure. The eastern and northern walls are blank. The windows are 4 X 4, and a single door, facing west, has a two-pane transom. The building sits upon a stone base. The slate roof features extremely wide eaves, with frieze trim on the gable ends. Bracketed cornices appear over the windows. A stone privy, with a slate hip roof, is southeast of the house. It is divided in half and has separate entrances on the northern and southern sides. Closer to the house is a stone icehouse, with a door on the western aspect and a slate, gable-flank roof. A most unusual building is partially submerged in the hillside directly behind the house. This is a stone smokehouse, with a very high peaked slate roof that extends to ground level. The eaves feature bric-a-brac trim, and an inside-end brick stack is located on the southern end. Two 2 X 2 windows are situated on the northern and southern extremes, and a door is also located on the latter aspect. Further south of the house is a more recent cluster of structures; a corncrib, carriage house and two sheds, all of vertical frame resting on stone foundations, with gable-front roofs.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Because of our incomplete tax lists, it is not known at this time when the stone house was built. The Martenet map of 1878 indicates Evan S. Rogers lived in this dwelling at that time and maintained a blacksmith and wheelwright shop. The stone stucco house appears to be of the Federal style. It is five bays long and has the Roman symmetry of the Early Georgian or Federal period. Its center through hall has a wide panelled door with a transom and side lights and the corners of the dwelling are unmarked by quoins. It was not possible to view this house's interior.

This center of the iron industry was located near Deer Creek Bridge at Rocks, at the junction of the Rocks Road and St. Clair Bridge Road, and did a thriving business. It was operated by the Rogers family, who owned about 2,000 acres of farm and forest land in the vicinity of Rocks.

Isaac Rogers came to Harford County from Chester County, Pennsylvania sometime before 1800. He immediately saw the opportunity of developing a successful industry because of the fine water power, the nearness to deposits of ore, and the forests which would provide charcoal. He and his three sons, Joseph, Ivan, and Stanley, are said to have given employment at one time to 300 men. The company maintained a large warehouse and community store, thus ministering to the needs of its employees.

The iron works was last owned by the E. Stanley Rogers Company and the large holdings were disposed of in 1886 when the furnace ceased to operate.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Martenet Map, 1878
 Harford County Directory, 1953
 Wright, C. Milton; Our Harford Heritage, 1967.

1783 Maryland Tax List
 1798 Federal Tax List
 1814 Maryland Tax List

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 22,572 acres

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

This property is bounded on the east by Rocks Road; on the south by the land of John Roming and on the north by the lands of Francis Hince.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Paul Penrod and Susan M. Deeney

January 17, 1977

ORGANIZATION

Historic District Commission

DATE

838-6000 ext. 207

STREET & NUMBER

45 South Main Street

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Bel Air

STATE

Maryland

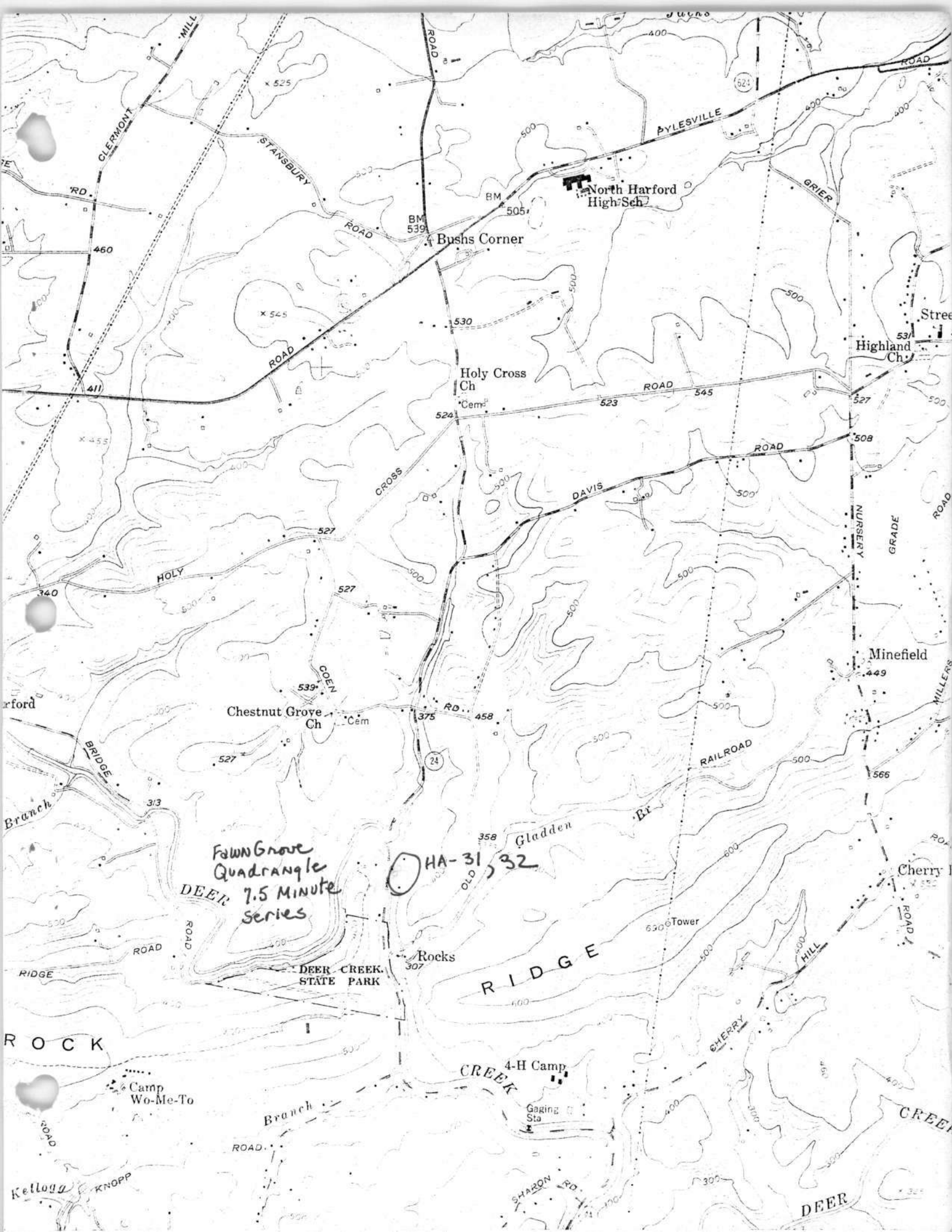
The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
 The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
 Annapolis, Maryland 21401
 (301) 267-1438

TITLE SEARCH

<u>Liber</u>		<u>Folio</u>	
HDC	900	48	Frances Wilson Hince sold 22.572 acres to Leonard E. Mankowski in 1972.
GRG	308	411	Catherine Lochary conveyed 479 acres of La Grange to Frances Wilson Hince in 1947.
GRG	308	410	J. Clarence Wilson imparted the parcel to Catherine Lochary in 1947.
WSF	115	117	In 1905, J. Clarence Wilson obtained 813 acres from Alonzo Wilson.
WSF	96	490	Henry M. Marshall, attorney for Mary E. Rogers, transferred 969 acres to J. Clarence Wilson and Alonzo Wilson in 1899.
WSF	96	262	In 1899, Henry M. Marshall conveyed 974 acres to Mary E. Rogers.
WSF	89	411	Charles A. Rutledge sold the property to Herman Guthrie in 1896.
WSF	77	457	Martha J. Rutledge released the land to Elizabeth W. Ruthledge.
ALJ	65	40	Robert Archer, attorney, conveyed the property to Martha J. Rutledge in 1889. This sale came as a result of an 1889 equity case involving Grace S. Rogers v.s. Charles J. Rutledge.
ALJ	56	184	Charles A. Rutledge bought the property in 1883 from Robert Archer, trustee. Archer was invested with the parcel following an 1883 equity case involving Mary E. Rogers and Grace A. Rogers.
WG	12	307	In 1861, Isaac Rogers conveyed the property to Evan S. Rogers. An earlier deed from 1844 recorded a similar transfer of the interests of Isaac Rogers to Evan S. Rogers.



Fawn Grove
Quadrangle
7.5 Minute
Series

HA-31, 32

DEER

DEER CREEK
STATE PARK

RIDGE

4-H Camp

Gaging
Sta

ROCK

Kellogg
KNOPP

Camp
Wo-Me-To

Branch

ROAD

SHARON RD

CHERRY

DEER

CREEK

Cherry

Minefield

NURSERY

ROAD

Street

Highland

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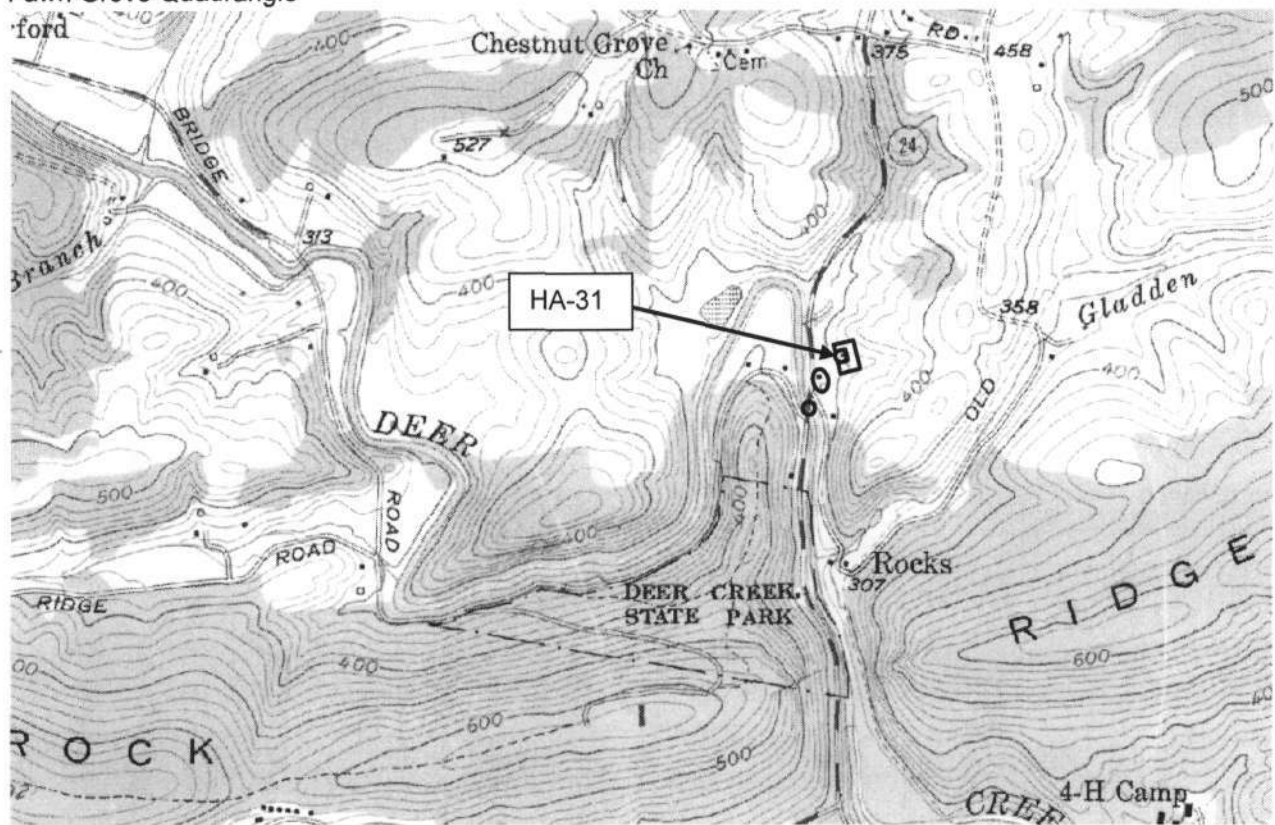
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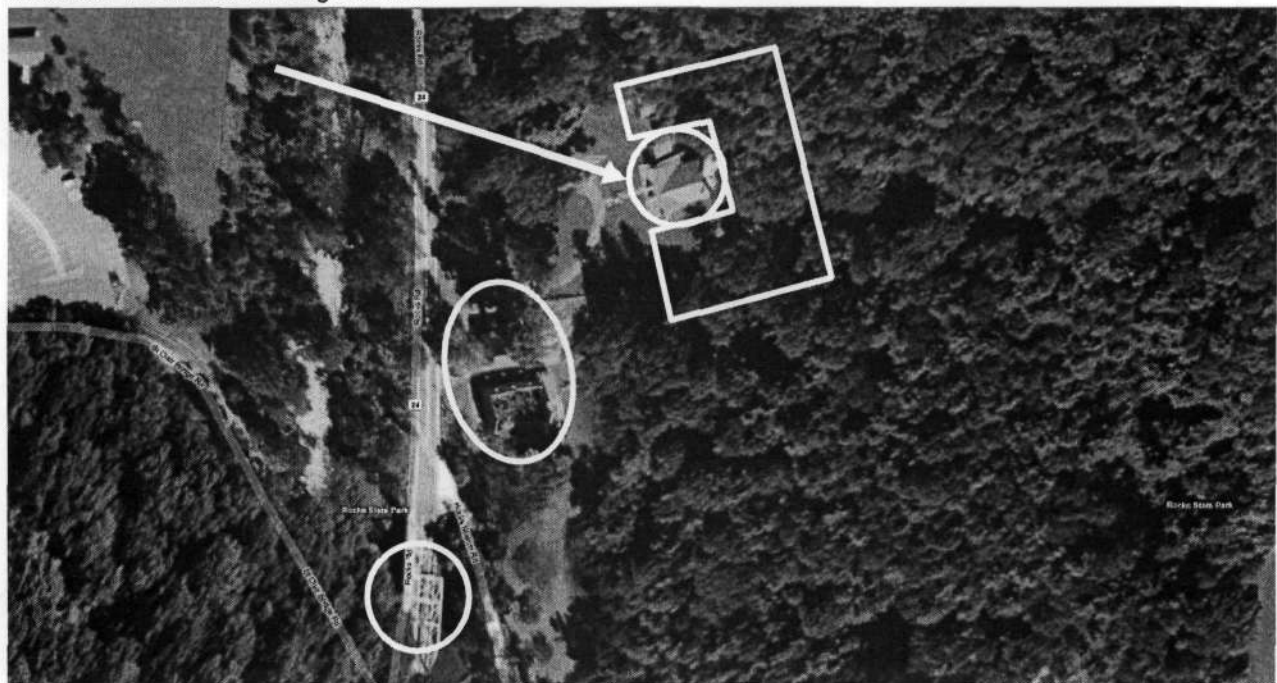
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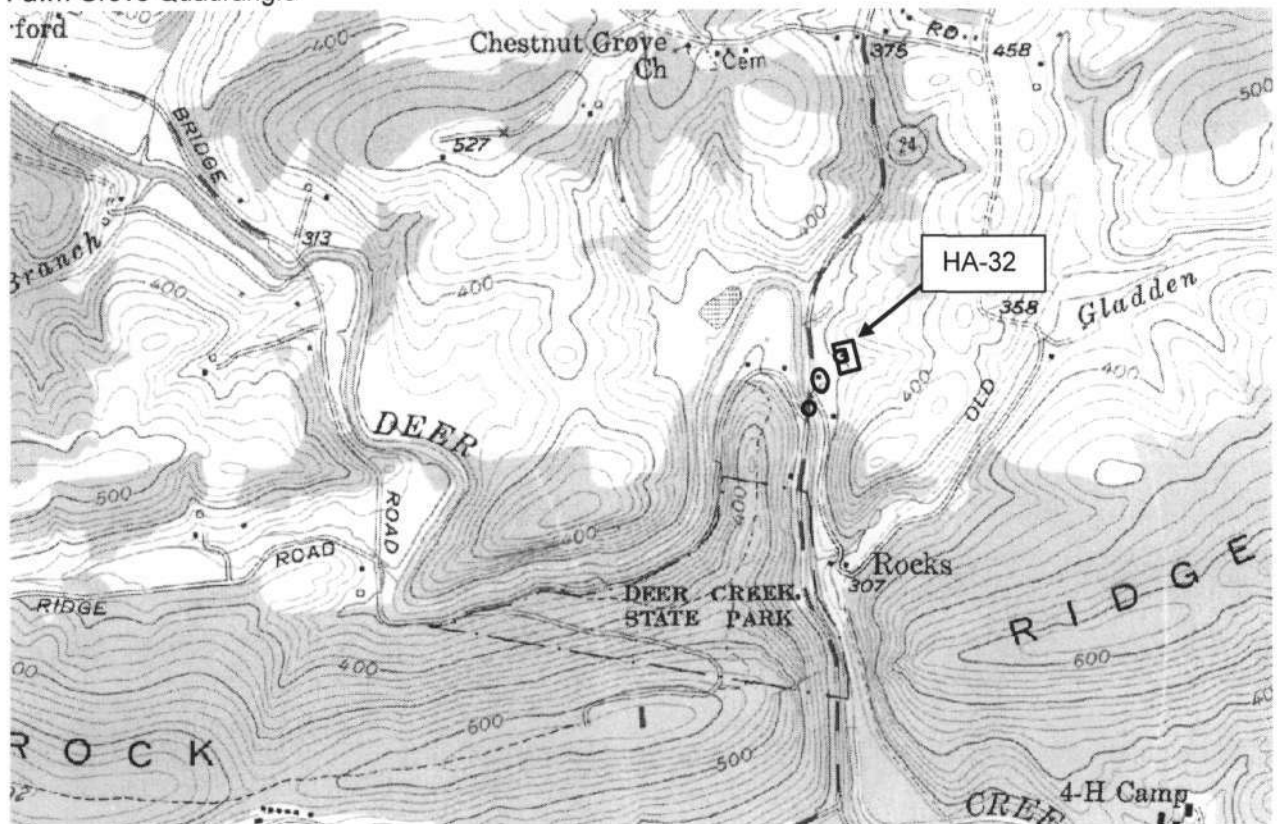
HA-31
La Grange House
3901 Rocks Road (MD 24)
Fawn Grove Quadrangle



Microsoft Virtual Earth image c. 2009



HA-32
La Grange Outbuildings
3901 Rocks Road (MD 24)
Fawn Grove Quadrangle



Microsoft Virtual Earth image c. 2009





HA-31

Stucco-Stone House - Rocks 9 Nov 69 JSZ



HA-32

Nov 69 JSE

La Grange Furnace Smokehouse